

NEW YORK TIMES
6 APR 1969

Moscow Paper Charges Yugoslavs Print Hostile Material on Russia

By BERNARD GWERTZMAN

Special to The New York Times

MOSCOW, April 5 — A Soviet newspaper today levelled against Yugoslavia some of the strongest criticism seen here in more than a decade.

An article in Sovetskaya Rossiya, an organ of the Communist party's Central Committee, ostensibly was an attack on Yugoslavia's press for publishing anti-Soviet material. But it was interpreted by Yugoslav diplomats as a direct rebuke to the Government of President Tito.

Sovetskaya Rossiya, which is the party's newspaper for the Russian Republic, largest in the Soviet Union, has been in the forefront of a campaign for ideological purity in the Communist press.

Publication of today's article suggested that relations with Yugoslavia now might be as bad as those that existed in the fall of 1956, following the Soviet quashing of the Hungarian revolt, when Imre Nagy, leader of the revolt, took refuge in the Yugoslav embassy in Budapest.

Mr. Nagy was arrested and executed after Hungary and the Soviet Union refused to honor a safe-conduct guarantee to let him leave the country, exaggerating already strained relations between Moscow and Belgrade.

Referring to current articles in the Yugoslav press critical of the Soviet Union, Sovetskaya Rossiya said, "Unfortunately this is not the first wave of anti-Sovietism in the Yugoslav press."

"Everyone remembers the civil events in the fall of 1956 when the mask of the die-hard counterrevolutionaries was ripped off in Hungary," it said.

It can be well documented, the article said, "how Yugoslav revisionists and opportunists lost their minds, supporting and extolling the bloody counter-revolutionary putsch that had been unleashed."

"It is not coincidence that the enemies of the Hungarian people found a haven in those days in the Yugoslav embassy," it said.

The Yugoslavs were accused of viewing the Czechoslovak events in a "tendentious man-

ner," of using such words as "occupation" and "intervention" to describe what Sovetskaya Rossiya called "the help by fraternal countries for Czechoslovak people to defend their revolutionary victory."

Yugoslav diplomats said the article seemed to sum up Soviet anger toward President Tito's refusal to accept the occupation of Czechoslovakia as well as toward Yugoslavia's model of Communism, which puts the party in the background and permits autonomy in the economy and freedom to the press.

Soviet ideologists insist that the Communist party must be the leading force in society and they find the Yugoslav concept untenable.

Last month, the Soviet Union and its Warsaw Pact allies, with the exception of Rumania, refused to attend a Yugoslav party congress.

The leading Yugoslav papers, Borba and Politika, and the Tanyug press agency were criticized in today's article as were two resident Yugoslav correspondents in Moscow.

Among anti-Soviet actions attributed to the Yugoslavs was the publication of excerpts from Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's novel about life in a special Stalinist prison for intellectuals, "The First Circle," which has not been printed here.

The Yugoslav press was condemned for advocating a "neutral" position in the Chinese-Soviet dispute and for printing material detailing China's side of the conflict.

Yugoslavs were criticized for equating the Warsaw Pact with the North Atlantic alliance.

The article said the Soviet Government had more than once "brought to the attention of Yugoslav comrades the anti-Soviet attacks by the Yugoslav press, but the situation has not changed for the better."

"Apparently there are certain circles in Yugoslavia interested in creating an unfriendly atmosphere and a worsening of So-

viet-Yugoslav relations," Sovetskaya Rossiya said.

Relations between the two countries, close at the end of World War II, were broken in 1948 when Yugoslavia was expelled from the Cominform, the Soviet-dominated association of European Communist parties.

Relations were re-established after Stalin's death and, after the disagreements over the Hungarian revolt, became quite good in the early nineteen sixties. President Tito came himself, in fact, to the 50th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution in Moscow in November 1967, but in the last year relations have again cooled.

STAT